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Helder Guimarães: A magical search for a coincidence | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/helder_guimaraes_a_magical_search_for_a_coincidence

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

sturgeon

n. a large, bony fish with a long, pointed snout and scaleless skin found in the northern hemisphere

(1) **sturgeon** fish, (2) **sturgeon** caviar

Sturgeon meat is considered a delicacy in many countries around the world.

giraffe

n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves

synonym : gazelle, okapi, camelopard

(1) **giraffe** pattern, (2) **giraffe** exhibit

The **giraffe's** long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.

deck

n. a flat surface that is usually made of wood or other material and is attached to a building, vehicle, or other structure

synonym : platform, veranda, patio

(1) **deck** chairs, (2) hands on **deck**

She sat on the ship's **deck**, watching the sunset over the ocean.

crazy

adj. stupid or not sensible; very angry

synonym : insane, absurd, bizarre

(1) **crazy** about cars and racing, (2) a **crazy** scheme

The rain and thunder are **crazy** today.

react

v. to take action in response to something

synonym : respond, reply, oppose

(1) **react** at a high temperature, (2) **react** against his way of thinking

How did he **react** to your idea?

clip

n. a small metal or plastic device used for holding an object or objects together or in place; a short part of electronic media, either an audio clip or video clip

synonym : buckle, hook, pin

(1) tie **clip**, (2) short video **clip**

He fastens some sheets of paper with a **clip**.

fist

n. a hand with the fingers clenched tightly into the palm to form a hard rounded shape; an act of striking someone or something with the fist

synonym : clenched hand, knuckles, mitt

(1) tight **fist**, (2) raise a **fist**

The boxer clenched his **fist** before throwing a punch.

impose

v. to officially force a new law, tax, duty, etc. to be obeyed or received

synonym : charge, levy, foist

(1) **impose** harsher sanctions, (2) **impose** tariffs

The problem with achievement tests is the narrowness they **impose** on students.

claim

v. to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true

synonym : assert, declare, maintain

(1) **claim** responsibility, (2) false **claim**

He wants to **claim** ownership of the abandoned property.

flip

v. to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion

synonym : throw, jump

(1) **flip** over the pork chop, (2) **flip** a coin

He **flipped** when he heard that he had been accepted into the university.

random

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

synonym : incidental, arbitrary, unanticipated

(1) a **random** choice, (2) bombs fell at **random**

To find drunk drivers, police conduct **random** tests.

spade

n. a gardening tool with a flat, pointed blade used for digging, planting, and moving soil

synonym : shovel, scoop, hoe

(1) **spade** blade, (2) dig with a **spade**

I used an iron **spade** to dig a hole for the new tree in the backyard.

jack

n. a mechanical device used for lifting or supporting heavy objects

synonym : lever, crank, wrench

(1) a **jack** of all trades, (2) a line-in **jack**

He used a **jack** to lift the car to change the tire.

ace

n. a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

synonym : expert, master, champion

(1) tennis **ace**, (2) **ace** in the hole

He was an **ace** at playing poker and often won the game.

influence

n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself

synonym : power, leverage, effect

(1) **influence** a child's future, (2) **influence** the daily life

The former emperor had a particular **influence** even after he abdicated.

decision

n. the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options

synonym : choice, determination, judgment

(1) **decision** authority, (2) a selfish **decision**

She was struggling to make a **decision** between two job offers.

absolutely

adv. without restriction or limitation; completely or utterly

synonym : completely, utterly, definitely

(1) **absolutely** against, (2) **absolutely** obsessed with the girl

I am **absolutely** opposed to his idea because of morality.

define

v. to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

synonym : characterize, depict, express

(1) **define** a word, (2) **define** my position

To advance this discussion, we must **define** "success" rigorously.

amazing

adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

synonym : exceptional, extraordinary, wonderful

(1) **amazing** advances, (2) the most **amazing** feeling

The golfer recorded an **amazing** distance.

decide

v. to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options

synonym : choose, determine, settle

(1) **decide** a question, (2) **decide** on a course of action
She couldn't **decide** whether to order the pizza or the pasta for dinner.

coincidence

n. an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way

synonym: co-occurrence, concurrency, accident

(1) the **coincidence** of an opinion, (2) by a strange **coincidence**

It was a pure **coincidence** that we met her in the library.

statistics

n. the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data

(1) **statistics** for cancer, (2) official **statistics**

The **statistics** demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.

lengthwise

adv. in the direction of the length of an object or space; longitudinally

synonym: along, longitudinally, extendedly

(1) slice **lengthwise**, (2) fold **lengthwise**

He cut the wood **lengthwise** to make it fit into the space.

rectangle

n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length

synonym: oblong, square, quadrangle

(1) orthogonal **rectangle**, (2) **rectangle** box

The living room had a **rectangle-shaped** coffee table in the center of it.

crease

n. a line or mark made by folding or wrinkling a surface or material; a slight ridge or fold in fabric or paper caused by pressing or folding

synonym: fold, wrinkle, ridge

(1) **crease** in fabric, (2) deep **crease**

The shirt had a noticeable **crease** along the sleeve from

being folded.

bunch

n. a grouping of several similar things which are growing or fastened together

synonym: group, assemblage, bundle

(1) a **bunch** of trees, (2) a **bunch** of schoolgirls

One bad apple spoils the whole **bunch**.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

swap

v. to give something and receive something in trade

synonym: exchange, switch, trade

(1) **swap** seats, (2) **swap** columns with rows

Don't **swap** horses while crossing a stream.

shuffle

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

synonym: jumble, muddle, rearrange

(1) **shuffle** deck, (2) **shuffle** from side to side

She **shuffled** the cards before dealing them to the players.

mess

n. a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy

synonym: disarray, confusion, predicament

(1) have a whole **mess**, (2) get into a **mess**

He made a frightful **mess** in his room.

entitle

v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

synonym: allow, permit, enable

(1) **entitle** him to a pension, (2) **entitle** the company to use the logo

The employee was **entitled** to a week of vacation time.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

serial

adj. consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents

synonym: consecutive, sequential, successive

(1) **serial** killer, (2) **serial** number

The company is launching a new line of **serial** products aimed at young adults.

madam

n. a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect

synonym: lady, ma'am, madame

(1) **madam** speaker, (2) dear **madam**

Madam President, may I ask a question regarding the new policy?

Session 2: Spelling

1. de____on authority *n.* the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options
2. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
3. appeared on____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
4. hands on d__k *n.* a flat surface that is usually made of wood or other material and is attached to a building, vehicle, or other structure
5. en____e the company to use the logo *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
6. abs____ly against *adv.* without restriction or limitation; completely or utterly
7. de___e my position *v.* to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something
8. in____ce the daily life *n.* the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
9. re__t at a high temperature *v.* to take action in response to something
10. de___e a word *v.* to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

ANSWERS: 1. decision, 2. rev, 3. onstage, 4. deck, 5. entitle, 6. absolutely, 7. define, 8. influence, 9. react, 10. define

11. a line-in j__k *n.* a mechanical device used for lifting or supporting heavy objects
12. dear ma__m *n.* a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect
13. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
14. im___e tariffs *v.* to officially force a new law, tax, duty, etc. to be obeyed or received
15. by a strange coi_____ce *n.* an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way
16. gi_____e exhibit *n.* a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
17. se___l killer *adj.* consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents
18. false cl__m *v.* to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true
19. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

ANSWERS: 11. jack, 12. madam, 13. distracted, 14. impose, 15. coincidence, 16. giraffe, 17. serial, 18. claim, 19. distracted

20. re_____le box *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
21. s__p columns with rows *v.* to give something and receive something in trade
22. re__t against his way of thinking *v.* to take action in response to something
23. get into a m__s *n.* a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy
24. a j__k of all trades *n.* a mechanical device used for lifting or supporting heavy objects
25. cl__m responsibility *v.* to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true
26. a selfish de_____on *n.* the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options
27. official sta_____cs *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
28. f__p over the pork chop *v.* to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
29. de___e on a course of action *v.* to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options

ANSWERS: 20. rectangle, 21. swap, 22. react, 23. mess, 24. jack, 25. claim, 26. decision, 27. statistics, 28. flip, 29. decide

30. bombs fell at ra___m *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
31. tight f__t *n.* a hand with the fingers clenched tightly into the palm to form a hard rounded shape; an act of striking someone or something with the fist
32. orthogonal re_____le *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
33. cr___e in fabric *n.* a line or mark made by folding or wrinkling a surface or material; a slight ridge or fold in fabric or paper caused by pressing or folding
34. a ra___m choice *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
35. en_____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
36. tie c__p *n.* a small metal or plastic device used for holding an object or objects together or in place; a short part of electronic media, either an audio clip or video clip
37. im___e harsher sanctions *v.* to officially force a new law, tax, duty, etc. to be obeyed or received
38. the most am_____g feeling *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
39. raise a f__t *n.* a hand with the fingers clenched tightly into the palm to form a hard rounded shape; an act of striking someone or something with the fist

ANSWERS: 30. random, 31. fist, 32. rectangle, 33. crease, 34. random, 35. entitle, 36. clip, 37. impose, 38. amazing, 39. fist

40. have a whole m__s *n.* a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy
41. the coi_____ce of an opinion *n.* an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way
42. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
43. st_____on fish *n.* a large, bony fish with a long, pointed snout and scaleless skin found in the northern hemisphere
44. fold len_____se *adv.* in the direction of the length of an object or space; longitudinally
45. d__k chairs *n.* a flat surface that is usually made of wood or other material and is attached to a building, vehicle, or other structure
46. a bu__h of schoolgirls *n.* a grouping of several similar things which are growing or fastened together
47. sp__e blade *n.* a gardening tool with a flat, pointed blade used for digging, planting, and moving soil
48. f__p a coin *v.* to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
49. a bu__h of trees *n.* a grouping of several similar things which are growing or fastened together

ANSWERS: 40. mess, 41. coincidence, 42. rev, 43. sturgeon, 44. lengthwise, 45. deck, 46. bunch, 47. spade, 48. flip, 49. bunch

50. st____on caviar *n.* a large, bony fish with a long, pointed snout and scaleless skin found in the northern hemisphere
51. sta_____cs for cancer *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
52. cr__y about cars and racing *adj.* stupid or not sensible; very angry
53. a_e in the hole *n.* a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field
54. abs_____ly obsessed with the girl *adv.* without restriction or limitation; completely or utterly
55. s__p seats *v.* to give something and receive something in trade
56. dig with a sp__e *n.* a gardening tool with a flat, pointed blade used for digging, planting, and moving soil
57. a cr__y scheme *adj.* stupid or not sensible; very angry
58. ma__m speaker *n.* a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect
59. deep cr___e *n.* a line or mark made by folding or wrinkling a surface or material; a slight ridge or fold in fabric or paper caused by pressing or folding
60. slice len_____se *adv.* in the direction of the length of an object or space; longitudinally

ANSWERS: 50. sturgeon, 51. statistics, 52. crazy, 53. ace, 54. absolutely, 55. swap, 56. spade, 57. crazy, 58. madam, 59. crease, 60. lengthwise

61. se___l number *adj.* consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents
62. in_____ce a child's future *n.* the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
63. sh_____e deck *v.* to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps
64. sh_____e from side to side *v.* to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps
65. short video c__p *n.* a small metal or plastic device used for holding an object or objects together or in place; a short part of electronic media, either an audio clip or video clip
66. de___e a question *v.* to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options
67. gi_____e pattern *n.* a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
68. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
69. am_____g advances *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

ANSWERS: 61. serial, 62. influence, 63. shuffle, 64. shuffle, 65. clip, 66. decide, 67. giraffe, 68. onstage, 69. amazing

70. tennis a_e

n. a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

ANSWERS: 70. ace

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He was an ____ at playing poker and often won the game.
n. a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

2. I used an iron _____ to dig a hole for the new tree in the backyard.
n. a gardening tool with a flat, pointed blade used for digging, planting, and moving soil

3. The company is launching a new line of _____ products aimed at young adults.
adj. consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents

4. It was a pure _____ that we met her in the library.
n. an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way

5. Don't ____ horses while crossing a stream.
v. to give something and receive something in trade

6. He fastens some sheets of paper with a _____.
n. a small metal or plastic device used for holding an object or objects together or in place; a short part of electronic media, either an audio clip or video clip

7. He cut the wood _____ to make it fit into the space.
adv. in the direction of the length of an object or space; longitudinally

ANSWERS: 1. ace, 2. spade, 3. serial, 4. coincidence, 5. swap, 6. clip, 7. lengthwise

8. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
9. The shirt had a noticeable _____ along the sleeve from being folded.
n. a line or mark made by folding or wrinkling a surface or material; a slight ridge or fold in fabric or paper caused by pressing or folding
10. To advance this discussion, we must _____ "success" rigorously.
v. to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something
11. She couldn't _____ whether to order the pizza or the pasta for dinner.
v. to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options
12. The former emperor had a particular _____ even after he abdicated.
n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
13. He _____ when he heard that he had been accepted into the university.
v. to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
14. The golfer recorded an _____ distance.
adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
15. He used a _____ to lift the car to change the tire.
n. a mechanical device used for lifting or supporting heavy objects
16. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

ANSWERS: 8. onstage, 9. crease, 10. define, 11. decide, 12. influence, 13. flipped, 14. amazing, 15. jack, 16. entitled

17. He made a frightful _____ in his room.

n. a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy

18. She was struggling to make a _____ between two job offers.

n. the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options

19. The rain and thunder are _____ today.

adj. stupid or not sensible; very angry

20. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

21. I am _____ opposed to his idea because of morality.

adv. without restriction or limitation; completely or utterly

22. She _____ the cards before dealing them to the players.

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

23. The _____ long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.

n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves

24. _____ President, may I ask a question regarding the new policy?

n. a term of polite address or title used to address a woman, particularly one in a position of authority or respect

ANSWERS: 17. mess, 18. decision, 19. crazy, 20. rev, 21. absolutely, 22. shuffled, 23. giraffe's, 24. Madam

25. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

26. How did he _____ to your idea?

v. to take action in response to something

27. She sat on the ship's _____ watching the sunset over the ocean.

n. a flat surface that is usually made of wood or other material and is attached to a building, vehicle, or other structure

28. The _____ demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.

n. the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data

29. The problem with achievement tests is the narrowness they _____ on students.

v. to officially force a new law, tax, duty, etc. to be obeyed or received

30. _____ meat is considered a delicacy in many countries around the world.

n. a large, bony fish with a long, pointed snout and scaleless skin found in the northern hemisphere

31. To find drunk drivers, police conduct _____ tests.

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

32. The boxer clenched his _____ before throwing a punch.

n. a hand with the fingers clenched tightly into the palm to form a hard rounded shape; an act of striking someone or something with the fist

ANSWERS: 25. distracted, 26. react, 27. deck, 28. statistics, 29. impose, 30. Sturgeon, 31. random, 32. fist

33. One bad apple spoils the whole _____.

n. a grouping of several similar things which are growing or fastened together

34. The living room had a _____ coffee table in the center of it.

n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length

35. He wants to _____ ownership of the abandoned property.

v. to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true

ANSWERS: 33. bunch, 34. rectangle-shaped, 35. claim